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CIA 4 United Nations

Thunder Over the Congo

We are indebted to the New China News Agency for the following synopsis of a new play "Thunder over the Congo," now being performed in Peking. It is stated to be the second play about the Congo written and staged in China (which suggests that Chinese dramatists—or politicians—are a bit slow off the mark), coming four months after the successful production of "Battle Drums on the Equator" by the Chinese navy's drama company.

The play tells "the inspiring story of how the people of the Congo (Leopoldville) rose in armed struggle against the American imperialist aggressors and their tool the United Nations." It exposes "the efforts of the American imperialists under cover of the United Nations to strangle the new republic of the Congo led by Patrice Lumumba."

"The new play's hero is Feika, a leader of the independence movement. As a student he had organised underground resistance to Belgian colonialism. The play follows his rapid maturing in the fight against the new, craftier and more ferocious enemy, the American neo-colonialists. Finally, he goes into the jungle to join the armed struggle against the American-controlled UN aggression."

"Kulumi, the son of a tribal chieftain and Feika's friend since student days, becomes a governor of a uranium-rich province after independence. Though a patriot, he fails to see through the imperialists' scheme to get control of the country through the United Nations and seize the uranium deposits. But gradually he comes to understand their aims, and through the UN forces' scheme to wipe out the patriotic Congolese troops learns a bitter lesson."

"A sinister CIA agent heads the UN's 'economic assistance group,' later becoming political representative of the UN forces. To further the American plan to seize the uranium, he engineers the murder of a tribal chieftain and then calls in the UN troops to intervene and wipe out the guerillas and patriotic forces. But his schemes are frustrated by the people's forces led by Feika."

The play, written jointly by an actor, a playwright and a theatre director, has been, perhaps superfluously, described by one of them as intended "to expose the UN as a tool of American imperialist aggression," a thought that may clear up the delusion of those unfortunate Ghanaians, Ethiopians, Indians, etc., who have a different memory of their days as UN troops in the Congo of Patrice Lumumba.